

(for 10 & 11)

The government believes that economic growth is a responsibility of every cabinet minister. Consequently, the Minister for International Cooperation is accountable for encouraging trade objectives within CIDA Inc's mandate of creating sustainable development through linkages with the private sector. These two objectives can not be disassociated. Every cabinet minister is accountable to Parliament, for the smooth management of government business. It is thus anticipated that both ministers and their respective organizations will endeavour to improve the consultative process with the aim of developing a common agenda to enhance the effectiveness of Canada's presence in emerging markets.

12. The Committee therefore recommends:

(a) That the government sign and submit for ratification if necessary to Parliament the Organization of American States (OAS) convention and that it continue to work with the Latin American countries;

Canada fully intends to sign the Convention. Work is underway to review what, if any, amendments to Canadian statutes will be necessary in order to comply with the Convention.

(b) That Canada fully participate in the work of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and encourage the development of an OECD Code of Conduct in this area;

Canada has a strong history of full participation in and encouragement of the OECD work. Authority for this full participation has been obtained at the ministerial level and will continue. The development of a Code of Conduct is an new and interesting idea that merits study.

(c) That the government encourage the establishment in Canada of a Transparency International chapter;

Government officials are providing support for the establishment of a Canadian Transparency International chapter and will continue to respond positively to all Transparency International requests.

(d) That the government consider adopting legislation directed at the use of corrupt practices in international trade; and

Canadian criminal law already makes it an offence to conspire to break a foreign law; accordingly, a conspiracy in Canada to corrupt a foreign official would be an offence, even if the corruption took place outside of Canada. Ministers Ouellete and McLaren have supported the overall OECD initiatives aimed at preventing corrupt practices in international trade.

(e) That the Canadian government take the lead in carrying this matter forward in the World Trade Organization. (page 32)

Canada fully supports the initiative to launch negotiations at the WTO Ministerial meeting in Singapore on a multilateral agreement to enshrine due process and transparency obligations in government procurement. It has joined other QUAD members (U.S., Japan and EU) in promoting this initiative within the WTO and will continue efforts to move the issue forward. It is Canada's view that such negotiations should also help to promote confidence in procurement disciplines, and should ultimately lead to expanded membership in the WTO procurement agreement itself.

13. Given these differences in opinion about the role of government in providing market information/intelligence services, particularly in light of the growing number of services being provided by the private sector, the federal government needs to define more clearly its role in providing these services, particularly for SMES. In order to guide the government in defining its role, the Committee recommends: